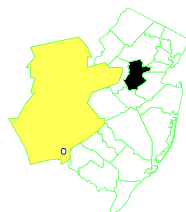


# HIGGINS DISPOSAL

## NEW JERSEY

EPA ID# NJD053102232



## EPA REGION 2 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT #7

Somerset County  
Franklin Township

**Other Names:**  
**Laurel Avenue**  
**Hasty Acres**

## Site Description

The Higgins Disposal site is located on a 37.6-acre parcel on Laurel Avenue in Franklin Township, New Jersey. From the 1950s to 1985, the site owner operated a waste disposal business, including an unpermitted landfill, waste transfer station, and compactor. The owner's family currently maintains a residence on the site, as well as an equestrian facility (Hasty Acres Riding Club) and a truck repair shop. The site has approximately 10,000 people within a three-mile radius that relies on groundwater as a source of drinking water. A freshwater wetland is located 300 feet from the site as well as two on-site ponds that discharge into Dirty Brook, a tributary of the Delaware/Raritan Canal. Dirty Brook, located along the northern and southern property boundaries, is not used for irrigation or drinking water. The Delaware/Raritan Canal, located approximately three-miles downstream from the site, is used for fishing, boating, and swimming. Both the Delaware/Raritan Canal and the Millstone River, located approximately 1,500 feet west of the site, flow north and eventually discharge into the Raritan Bay.

**Site Responsibility:** This site is being addressed through Federal and a potentially responsible party's actions.

### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Proposed Date: 06/24/88

Final Date: 08/30/90

## Threats and Contaminants



Subsurface soil and groundwater are contaminated with a variety of organic and inorganic constituents. The source of this contamination comprises of several known and suspected burial areas on the property including a landfill. Nearby residents and the on-site residents utilize groundwater for drinking water and the groundwater is a recharge source for Dirty Brook and the Delaware/Raritan Canal, which is used for recreational purposes.

## Cleanup Approach

This site is being addressed in two stages: removal actions addressing buried waste and contaminated subsurface soil and a long-term remedial phase focusing on contaminated ground water.

## Response Action Status

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**Removal Actions:** In 1990, EPA began a removal assessment, which identified one public area with elevated surface contaminants. EPA removed the contaminated soil in October 1992. In March 1993, upon the discovery of buried drums and laboratory glassware, EPA initiated a second removal action at the site. Initially, EPA restricted access to the area by installing security fencing and covering the area with tarps and soil. In April 1994, excavation of the known locations of buried material commenced. During the course of the removal action, EPA was able to identify a potentially responsible party (PRP) for the buried waste materials. In the 1998, EPA successfully negotiated with the identified PRP to complete the remaining removal activities and begin implementing the remedial actions required by the September 1997 Record of Decision. In June 1999, EPA and the PRP completed the second removal action.



**Entire Site:** EPA initiated Remedial Investigation field work at the site in the fall of 1992. Because removal of buried waste material was addressed through removal actions, the focus of the remainder of the remedial activities has been on the groundwater contamination at the site. A Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report, including a human health and ecological risk assessment, was presented to the public for review and comment during the spring of 1997 along with EPA's proposed plan for addressing ground water at the site. A Record of Decision to address the contaminated groundwater was signed on September 30, 1997. The remedy which was selected includes connecting residents downgradient of the site to a public water supply and the extraction of contaminated groundwater, with conveyance via a pipeline to the Higgins Farm Superfund site (located less than a mile away) for treatment and discharge to surface water.

## Cleanup Progress



In October 1990, EPA performed a removal assessment at the site. As a result of this survey, 765 tons of PCB-contaminated soil were excavated and shipped off-site for proper disposal. In the spring of 1993, during the course of Remedial Investigation field work, drums, plastic and glass containers, and cylinders were discovered buried in a field in the southwestern portion of the property. In May 1993, EPA began a fund-lead Removal Action that resulted in the discovery of additional areas of buried waste at the site. The fund-lead Removal Action continued through 1996 and resulted in the removal of over 7,000 containers and 12,000 tons of contaminated soil. Post-excavation sampling of the prior removal revealed the presence of additional waste containers near the previously defined extent of the landfill.

In August 1998, EPA identified a PRP that initiated the second removal under the oversight of EPA's Removal Program. This removal was completed in July 1999 and resulted in the excavation of approximately 34,000 tons of contaminated material and over 16,000 containers (e.g., laboratory glassware, plastic and metal containers, and drums) from the landfill. In September 1999, the PRP under EPA oversight completed the extension of a potable water supply for the residents

downgradient of the site. Subsequently, the PRP performed a pre-design investigation (PDI) for the final groundwater remedy from October 1999 to September 2000. The results from this investigation was used for assessing the impact of the removal actions on the site groundwater as well as provide additional information in support of the design activities for the implementation of the groundwater remedy. The PDI report was submitted in February 2001. Based on the results of the PDI, strong public opposition to the construction of a pipeline to Higgins Farm, inaccessibility to certain pipeline layout areas and information indicating it is more cost-effective and technically practicable to pump and treat at this site, the PRP submitted a focused Feasibility Study (FFS) in June 2001 as the basis for modification of the selected remedy. EPA expects to issue an Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) during the Summer of 2002.

## Site Repository



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Franklin Township Public Library, 485 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873